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Letter dated 21 December 2016 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014), containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2016. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Koro **Bessho**
Chair
Security Council Committee
established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014)

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Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014)

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Motohide Yoshikawa (Japan) as Chair from January to May and Koro Bessho (Japan) thereafter, together with the representative of Ukraine as Vice-Chair.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 2140 (2014), the Security Council imposed an asset freeze and a travel ban, for an initial period of one year from the date of the adoption of the resolution (26 February 2014), on individuals and entities engaging in or providing support for acts that threatened the peace, security or stability of Yemen. Exemptions to the measures were also included. The Council established a committee to designate such individuals and entities and to oversee the implementation of the measures and a panel of experts to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate. The Committee was also tasked with encouraging a dialogue between the Committee and interested Member States, in particular those in the region, and directed to cooperate with other relevant Council sanctions committees, in particular the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities.

4. By its resolution 2216 (2015), the Security Council imposed a targeted arms embargo against designated individuals and entities. Inspection provisions were included in the context of the enforcement of the arms embargo, including requirements with regard to reporting to the Committee by any Member State when it undertakes an inspection, and additional reporting if prohibited items for supply, sale or transfer are found. The Council also broadened the designation criteria to include violations of the arms embargo and obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Yemen or access to, or distribution of, humanitarian assistance in Yemen. It designated the leader of the Houthi Ansarallah movement, Abdulmalik al-Houthi, and the former President's son, Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh, as subject to the sanctions measures. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was also broadened to include monitoring the implementation of the arms embargo, and the size of the Panel increased from four experts to five as a result.

5. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was renewed until 27 March 2017 by the Security Council in its resolution 2266 (2016), by which the Council also renewed until 26 February 2017 the asset freeze, the travel ban and the targeted arms embargo against individuals or entities designated pursuant to resolutions 2140 (2014) and 2216 (2015).

6. Further background information on the Yemen sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

7. The Committee met three times in informal consultations, on 22 January, 25 April and 5 August, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

8. During the informal consultations held on 22 January, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on in its final report, submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 2204 (2015), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

9. During the informal consultations held on 25 April, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its activities since the presentation of its previous final report and on its work programme.

10. During the informal consultations held on 5 August, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on the Panel's midterm update, submitted in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 2266 (2016), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

11. On 17 February, pursuant to paragraph 19 (e) of resolution 2140 (2014), the Chair of the Committee briefed the Security Council on the activities of the Committee in a formal meeting (see S/PV.7625) and in consultations.

12. On 1 April, the Committee amended its guidelines for the conduct of its work to reflect the provisions of resolution 2266 (2016).

13. The Committee received three implementation reports from Member States. Furthermore, the Committee received 22 inspection reports from the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen, established pursuant to resolution 2216 (2015).

14. The Committee sent 20 communications to 13 Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

15. Exemptions to the asset freeze are contained in paragraphs 12 to 14 of resolution 2140 (2014).

16. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraph 16 of resolution 2140 (2014).

17. The Committee received a notification for a basic expenses exemption invoking paragraph 12 of resolution 2140 (2014), on which no negative decision was taken.

V. Sanctions list

18. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo are set out in paragraphs 17 and 18 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 19 of resolution 2216 (2015). The procedures

for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

19. The Committee approved amendments to existing entries on its sanctions list on 26 August.

20. As at the end of the reporting period, there were five individuals on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Panel of Experts

21. On 22 January, in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 2204 (2015), the Panel of Experts provided its final report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council (S/2016/73).

22. On 29 March, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2266 (2016) on 24 February, the Secretary-General appointed four experts to serve on the Panel, with expertise in arms, armed groups, finance and regional issues (see S/2016/287). On 8 April, the Secretary-General appointed a fifth expert to serve on the Panel, with expertise in international humanitarian law (see S/2016/334). The mandate of the Panel expires on 27 March 2017.

23. On 5 August, in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 2266 (2016), the Panel presented its midterm update to the Committee.

24. The Panel conducted visits to Bahrain, Colombia, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

25. In pursuance of its mandate, the Panel, through the Secretariat, sent 174 letters to Member States, the Security Council, the Committee and international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

26. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the sanctions regime.

27. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 1 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership of the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Panel of Experts and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements.

28. The Division continued to provide support to the Panel of Experts, conducting an induction for newly appointed members in April in New York and assisting in the preparation of the Panel's midterm update in July and during the preparation of its final report in December. The Panel also participated in the fourth annual inter-panel coordination workshop, held in New York on 6 and 7 December, organized by the Secretariat.

29. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and the committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to sanctions lists, including through the establishment of a search function for names on sanctions lists, the creation of lists organized by permanent reference number, in addition to those in alphabetical order, and the creation of links in list entries, as appropriate, to INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices.